Amazingly Cool Mac Utilities

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version 1.02 on 4 Nov 2007

Where to get stuff

- www.macupdate.com is my friend
- www.versiontracker.com is also handy
    - but not as handy
    - because their RSS feed doesn't include "FREE" keyword
- I made a Yahoo Pipe looking for macupdate + FREE
    - pipes.yahoo.com, search for "macupdate free"

SoundSource

- Category: Audio
- Switch your audio input sources easily.
- Lives in the menu bar for easy access.
- Price: Free!

Levelator

- Category: Audio

- Adjusts audio levels within podcast or other audio file.

- No options... just drag an audio file onto it, and it works

- Price: Free!

Radiosity

- Category: Audio

- Like a VCR or TiVo for favorite Internet radio stations

- Comes with a few stations pre-programmed

- You can add other stations as you find them

- Price: Free!

PandoraMan

- Category: Audio

- Run Pandora mini player using WebKit.

- No need to "dance around" having Pandora open in your main browser.

- Price: Free!

FStream

- Category: Audio

- WebRadio listener/recorder software.

- Add streams as you find them

- Nice minimal interface

- Price: Free!

AOL Radio

- Category: Audio

- AOL Radio featuring XM.

- "Over 200" streaming radio stations

- Low and hi bandwidth versions of most (all?)

- Price: Free!

Radioshift

- Category: Audio

- Listen to and record internet radio.

- Search by show name or browse by genre

- Uses online database to stay up-to-date

- Set up recording schedule

- Automatically add recordings to iTunes

- Price: $32.00

Ardour

- Category: Audio

- Record, edit and mix multi-track audio.

- Open source software, packaged for OSX X11
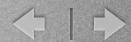
- Price: Free!

Traverso

- Category: Audio

- Cross platform multitrack audio recording and editing suite.

- Native OSX interface

- Lots of region sensitive hot-keys for easy manipulation

- Price: Free!

Audacity

- Category: Audio
- Audio recording, editing & mixing tool.
- OSX version understands AU and VST tools
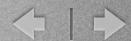- Price: Free!

Fission

- Category: Audio
- Streamlined audio editor.
- Lossless editing of MP3s
- Fade-in, fade-out around cuts
- Price: $32.00

Say It Save It

- Category: Audio

- Speaks text files, saves them as MP3 files.

- Also can type text directly

- Price: Free!

SonicBirth

- Category: Audio

- Build your own AudioUnit/VST plugins.

- Originally payware, now free.

- Make complex audio processing

- Embed other AU/VST as well

- Use in any AU/VST-aware application

- Price: Free!

iVisualize

- Category: Audio

- Create iTunes visualizers using Quartz Composer.

- Info about current song is provided as inputs

- Many third-party results

- Price: Free

I Eat Brainz

- Category: Audio
- Checks iTunes song info with the MusicBrainz database.
- Works by identifying the "sound signature"
- Great for unlabeled or mislabeled music
- Price: Free!

Audio Hijack Pro

- Category: Audio
- Record and enhance audio from any application.
- Make complex audio circuits from AUs
- I use it for Skype recording
  - My audio on left channel, other party on right
- Price: $32.00

Aurora

- Category: Audio
- Wakes Mac from sleep and plays iTunes.
- Stays in the menu bar
- Snooze mode, repeat schedule, remote control
- Price: Free!

Blender

- Category: Animation
- 3D modeling/animation/rendering app.
- Industrial strength
- Has been used on feature movies
- Price: Free!

Carbon Copy Cloner

- Category: Backup

- Easy-to-use backup/cloning utility.

- My backup tool of choice for many months

- Full and incremental cloning

- Price: Free!

SuperDuper

- Category: Backup
- Advanced disk cloning/recovery utility.
- My current cloning tool
- Full and incremental cloning
- Rule based configurations
- "Spare" system folder backup
- Price: $27.95

FireFox

- Category: Browsers

- Popular alternative web browser.

- Only partially integrated to Mac

  - No services menu

  - Doesn't respect OSX proxy settings

- Price: Free!

Camino

- Category: Browsers
- Lean and fast web browser.
- Price: Free!

NeoOffice

- Category: Business Office Suite

- OpenOffice w/o X11 dependencies.

- Often lags behind OpenOffice because it's a separate port

- Price: Free!

  - Except for the very long download!

Juhu

- Category: Chat

- Client for the jaiku web service.

- Launches links in standard web browser

- Widget, not application (no menu bar)

- Does a lot of DNS lookups when launched to get icons

- Price: Free!

Adium X

- Category: Chat
- Multi-protocol instant messenger client.
- AIM, YIM, MSN, Jabber
- Manages groups
- Very skinnable
- Trigger actions (once or always) for events
- Price: Free!

Skype

- Category: Chat

- Uses P2P for voice-over-internet phone

- Video chat

- Group conferencing

- Closed-source proprietary protocol

- May end up using your bandwidth for others

- Price: Free!

Gizmo

- Category: Chat

- Internet telephony app.

- Uses standardized protocols

- Client interoperates with Asterisk servers as well

- Free incoming number (in Nevada)

- Free voicemail

- Price: Free!

Hoverdash

- Category: Dashboard
- Put your widgets on the desktop.
- Finally, widgets where they should have been
- Limited options for layer
- Price: Free!

Quartz Desktop

- Category: Desktop

- View .qtz files on your desktop.

- No more boring static desktops

- Limit frames per second to manage background CPU

- Invoke Quartz Composer from menu

- Price: Free!

QCDesktop

- Category: Desktop

- Displays Quartz Compositions on your Tiger desktop.

- Control FPS, layer, opacity

- Price: Free!

Wallsaver

- Category: Desktop
- Run screensavers as desktop background.
- Not limited to Quartz compositions
- Price: Free!

OSXPlanet

- Category: Desktop

- Dynamic earth desktop picture.

- Very configurable

- Overlay current cloud cover and earthquakes

- Price: Free!

MagiCal

- Category: Desktop Utilities
- Menubar clock and calendar.
- Perfect way to get precisely the time format you want
- And a quick little pop-up calendar too!
- Price: Free!

RegExhibit

- Category: Developer
- Examine and test regular expressions.
- Not PCRE, real Perl
  - (GUI face on a Perl application)
- Price: Free!

Aquamacs Emacs

- Category: Editors

- Emacs editor with aqua GUI.

- Not like Carbon emacs, which has OSX GUI

- Price: Free!

  - well, it's a large download

Pando

- Category: Email

- Send/receive large files using your email account

- Recipient has to have the closed-source Pando client as well (Mac, Linux, Windows)

- Price: Free!

Podmailing

- Category: Email

- Send files by e-mail regardless of their size (was Podmailer).

- Recipient can use Podmailing client

  - Or use any bittorrent downloader!

- Torrenting means one-to-many is easy

  - Requires only one upload

- Price: Free!

fseventer

- Category: File Management

- Observe filesystem changes due to software installation, and more.

- Fun to watch normal file activity

- Also cool to watch an installation to see where it's adding things and looking for things

- Price: Free!

FileBuddy

- Category: File Management
- File management utility.
- Finding things like Spotlight but better
- Batch rename, modify, launch
- Mini-viewer for many media types
- Price: $39.95

WhatSize

- Category: File Management
- Measure file/folder sizes quickly.
- You can poke it to do your interesting items first
- Displays total at each level
- Reveal in finder, delete operations
- Price: Free!

GrandPerspective

- Category: File Management
- Graphically shows disk usage within a file system.
- Focus in by folder
- Distinguish various filetypes
- Price: Free!

OmniDiskSweeper

- Category: File Management

- Quickly find/delete big, useless files.

- Like WhatSize, but sorts by biggest folder too

  - Runs a bit smoother as well

- Price: $14.92

  - But paying for it only opens up "delete"

  - And you can still "reveal in finder", then delete

Acquisition

- Category: File Sharing

- Gnutella file-sharing client.

- Also serves as a torrent downloader

- Multiple search options

- Prioritization of download choices

- Price: $24.00

Cyberduck

- Category: FTP

- FTP and SFTP browser.

- Drag-n-drop GUI for copy, rename, edit remote

- Understands Bonjour sources

- Price: Free!

Fugu

- Category: FTP

- Cocoa GUI wrapper for OpenSSH SFTP.

- Also drag-n-drop between two panes (local and remote)

- Doesn't do FTP or Bonjour

- Cross platform, but OSXized

- Price: Free!

Sudoku Susser

- Category: Game Utility

- Helps solve Sudoku puzzles.

- Even gives hints

- Can download new puzzles directly from websites

- Price: Free!

  - Unless you count the time wasted by doing sudoku puzzles

Pzizz

- Category: Health and Fitness
- Audio relaxation tool.
- Great for timezone bouncers like me
- Nap mode (sleep and wake up gently)
- Sleep mode (down you go)
- Can automatically sleep a laptop when finished
- Makes audio tracks for iPods too
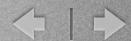 - I use this on flights
- Price: $49.95

Inkscape

- Category: Illustration

- Drawing app, capabilities similar to Illustrator/Freehand/CorelDraw

- Open source, Cross Platform

- Runs as an X11 application

  - Uses X fonts, not OSX fonts

- Price: Free!

ImageWell

- Category: Image Editing

- Edit images or make screen shots and send to the web

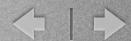- Simple: drag an image to it, select operation

- Price: Free!

ViewIt

- Category: Image Editing

- Nice and easy image browser.

- Can losslessly rotate JPEGs

  - Can base rotation choice on EXIF if present

- Good intake processor for camera pictures

  - Quick sorting into various folders with simple keys

- Price: $20.00

Flickr Uploader

- Category: Image Editing

- Drag and drop batch photo uploader.

- Because your pictures need to go somewhere!

- Supports tagging and adding to sets

- Price: Free!

GeoTagger

- Category: Image Editing

- Geotag your photos using Google Earth.

- Find the spot on Google Earth, then drag your JPEGs to it

- Adds the appropriate geo EXIF information

- Price: Free!

Transmission

- Category: Internet Utilities

- BitTorrent client

- Just keeps getting better and better

  - Recent release understands encryption to get around Comcast's annoying throttling

- Per item and overall bandwidth management

- Lots of graphical status displays

- Price: Free!

JollysFastVNC

- Category: Internet Utilities

- VNC client.

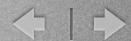- Works with any VNC server (cross-platform standard)

- Price: Free!

VineServer

- Category: Internet Utilities

- VNC server for remote GUI access (was OSXvnc).

- Works with any VNC Client (cross-platform)

- More features and control than the built-in OSX VNC Server

- Price: Free!

MacFusion

- Category: Internet Utilities

- Mount SSH/SFTP or FTP accounts as if they were local files.

- Great for using normal workflow with remote data

- Price: Free!

Secure Remote Disk

- Category: Internet Utilities

- Connect to remote servers using SSH via MacFUSE.

- Must have MacFUSE installed

- Keeps bookmarks for quick access

- Price: Free!

DropShare

- Category: Internet Utilities

- Instantly share your files.

- Provides a webserver on the dropped files

- Cut-n-paste address for instant messages

- Requires that you have a routable address

- Price: Free!

IpodDisk

- Category: Music
- Copy music off your iPod.
- Finder-like interface allows viewing by artist, title, album, etc
- Reverse-engineered, so it might break in the future
- DRMed music is still DRMed though
- Price: Free!

AirMoose

- Category: Network
- Wireless network stumbling application.
- See a lot more than what the Airport Menu shows
- Shows non-beaconing nets by sniffing traffic
  - Hint: non-beaconing is nearly pointless
- Price: Free!

Wireshark

- Category: Network

- Network protocol analyzer.

- Formerly known as Ethereal

- Gotta know a lot about TCP to make use of it

- Great for sniffing traffic to diagnose a problem

    - Or notice someone's password in the clear

- Price: Free!

Lighthouse

- Category: Network

- Dynamic port forwarding utility.

- Works with Apple or UPnP protocols

- Watches for application startup to decide what ports to forward

- Comes preconfigured for many apps

  - You can easily add more

- Price: $12.99

Tunnelblick

- Category: Network Utility
- GUI for OpenVPN (was OpenVPN-GUI)
- Connects to cross-platform OpenVPN server
- Optionally forces all traffic through the VPN
- Optionally retargets DNS to remote end
- Price: Free!

Lumen

- Category: Puzzle Games

- Simple and beautiful puzzle game.

- Bounce colored light into mirrors and filters

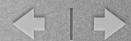- Download contributed games

- Make up your own game!

- Price: $10.00

Google Earth

- Category: Science

  - and Flight Simulators, in the latest release

- View & control dynamic satellite imagery of the world.

- Price: Free
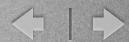
  - Unless you count the hours lost playing with it!

Stellarium

- Category: Science

- Open source desktop planetarium.

- Nice graphics

- Underdocumented

- Price: Free!

SkyOrb

- Category: Science
- 3D planetarium, star gazing and epheremis.
- Multiple viewpoints (Earth seen from moon, for example)
- Nice but noisy interface (that can be adjusted)
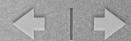- Underdocumented
- Price: Free!

Celestia

- Category: Science

- Real-time space fly-through simulation.

- Cross-platform tool

- Mac lags a bit behind other versions

- Can be scripted for canned demos

- Contributed downloads for things like ISS

- Fly to any location in the universe

- Price: Free!

Skyrocket

- Category: Screensaver
- 3D fireworks screensaver.
- It's cute and can be noisy if you let it
- Price: Free!

Anemona

- Category: Screensaver
- Particle-based screensaver like LiquidMac.
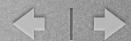- No options, but it looks cool.
- Price: Free!

Fields

- Category: Screensaver

- Force field simulator.

- Too many options

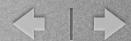- Wide variety of looks

- Price: Free!

HotelGadget

- Category: Screensaver

- Surrealistic rooms screensaver.

- Not much to configure

- Takes a while for people to figure out the gimmick

- Price: Free!

Tor

- Category: Security

- Anonymize Web Browsing and More

- Tunnel your traffic through a few random nodes in the world

- Open source, cross platform

- Includes privoxy to force web traffic through tunnels

- Price: Free!

LiquidMac

- Category: Simulation

- Particle system that reacts to the Sudden Motion Sensor.

- It doesn't do much, but it can be addicting

- It can also make you damage your laptop

- Price: Free!

  - Unless you break your laptop

Fish

- Category: Simulation
- Virtual desktop aquarium.
- Programmable fish
- "Be the fish" mode
- Price: Free!

VDrift

- Category: Simulation
- Driving simulation made with drift racing in mind.
- Cross platform
- Price: Free!

MacSaber

- Category: Simulation

- Uses Mac laptop sudden motion sensor, makes lightsaber sounds.

- Like LiquidMac, can help you break your laptop

- Price: Free!

sshfs

- Category: Storage

- Mount remote server filesystem via SSH.

- Remote filesystem viewable in Finder and command-line tools

- Bookmarkable remote connections

- Price: Free!

Temperature Monitor

- Category: System Utilities

- Displays processor temperature.

- Makes pretty graphs

- Can keep numbers on desktop, in menu bar, or in dock (or all!)

- Can speak or growl alerts for excessive temps

- Price: Free!

Quicksilver

- Category: System Utilities

- Application launcher and much more.

- Essential to my workflow now

- Trigger nearly anything on any menu

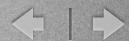- Launch any application with any number of files

- Price: Free!

Remote Buddy

- Category: System Utilities

- Control anything on your Mac with your Keyspan/Wiii/iPhone

- Comes with various profiles for applications

- Build your own profile for any application

- Makes your Apple Remote actually useful

- Price: $26.70 (depending on EUR-USD)

Growl

- Category: System Utilities

- Notification system for OS X apps.

- Must be configured with the application

- Show messages in various themeable ways

- Can speak messages too

- Price: Free!

Q Emulator

- Category: System Utilities (Emulators)

- Feature packed Cocoa port of QEMU to run Linux, Windows, others.

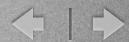- Like VMWare Fusion or Parallels Desktop

- Price: Free!

Yahoo Widget Engine

- Category: System Utilities

- Create desktop widgets (was Konfabulator).

- What Apple Widgets should have been

- Lots of Yahoo Widgets available

- Many more user-contributed widgets

- Build your own!

- Price: Free

MacFuse

- Category: System Utilities

- FUSE-compliant file system implementation mechanism.

- Needed for sshfs

- Also compatible with a "spotlight filesystem"

- Price: Free!

RapidoWrite

- Category: System Utilities

- Create keyboard shortcuts for words and phrases.

- Type long phrases with unique 3 or 4 character message

- Good if you keep answering your email with stock phrases, for example

- Price: Free!

TypeIt4Me

- Category: System Utilities
- Completes partially typed words for you.
- Like RapidoWrite, but works better
- Price: $27.00

RCDefaultApp

- Category: System Utilities

- Pref pane sets default application for file types.

- Great for saying "I want torrents opened with this thing"

- Or "I want GIFs, regardless of extension, to be opened in Photoshop"
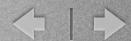
- Price: Free!

ServiceScrubber

- Category: System Utilities

- Manage your OS X Services Menu.

- Great for removing little-used items

- Can also change keystroke mappings

  - I put command-shift-U to "Open URL" instead of "Open URL In Camino", for example

- Price: Free!

JackSMS

- Category: System Utilities
- Alarm notification security for Mac laptops.
- Cute remote feature for activation
- Can take image with iSight, mail it to you
- Can also send you an SMS
- Price: Free!

Esperance DV

- Category: System Utilities

- Prefpane for creating a RAM Disk.

- GUI instead of command line

- Price: Free!

SharePoints

- Category: System Utilities

- Easily add and delete Share Points.

- Share any directory

- Manages both Windows and Mac sharing

- Price: Free!

Corporate Ipsum

- Category: Utility (Widget)
- A Lorem Ipsum generator.
- Very dilberteque
- Sadly, it's a Widget. Ugh.
- Price: Free!

TubeTV

- Category: Video

- Search for and save Google Video and YouTube videos.

- Can also reformat them (but I use VisualHub)

- Price: Free!

MPlayer

- Category: Video
- Play 3ivx, DivX 3/4/5, and other video formats.
- Handles things that Quicktime Player won't
- Price: Free!

VLC Media Player

- Category: Video

- Play DVD/VCD/MPEG/DivX and more, browser plugin available.

- Cross Platform, well supported

- Handles even more than MPlayer

- Price: Free!

MPEG Streamclip

- Category: Video
- Convert MPEG-1/MPEG-2 files, transport streams in several formats
- When you need it, you need it
- Price: Free!

Handbrake

- Category: Video

- DVD to AVI/MPEG-4 converter

- Rips DVDs, puts them on iPhone, iPod

- Price: Free!

ffmpegX

- Category: Video
- DivX/MPEG-1/MPEG-2 encoder and more.
- Price: $15

VisualHub

- Category: Video
- Convert video formats.
- Get it just for the manual!
- Great dialog boxes
- And it just works, and works well
- Many output presets
- Price: $23.32

CamTwist

- Category: Video
- Add special effects to your video chats.
- Price: Free!

Gawker

- Category: Video
- Create time-lapse movies using iSight cam.
- Price: Free!

Flip4Mac WMV

- Category: Video

- Play Windows Media in QuickTime Player.

- Price: Free!

And that's it!

- Enjoy!
- Send questions to me at merlyn@stonehenge.com